

Notice of Allowability

Application No.

09/868,379

Examiner

Michelle Graffeo

Applicant(s)

KROPF ET AL.

Art Unit

1614

- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address-

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to Applicants response of June 22, 2004.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 8-14.
3. ☐ The drawings filed on _____ are accepted by the Examiner.
4. ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the:
1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* Certified copies not received: _____.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.

THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

5. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
6. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
- (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
- 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
- (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____.
- Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
7. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

1. ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2. ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3. ☐ Information Disclosure Statements (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08), Paper No./Mail Date _____
4. ☐ Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit of Biological Material
5. ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
6. ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413), Paper No./Mail Date _____
7. ☒ Examiner's Amendment/Comment
8. ☒ Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance
9. ☐ Other _____

EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT

An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it MUST be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with Glenn Murphy on April 13, 2005. Attorney for applicant, Glenn Murphy, has agreed to the amended claims below.

The application has been amended as follows:

8. (previously presented): A suspension of one or more phosphate calcium salts, fluoride calcium salts, or fluorophosphate calcium salts in a liquid medium in which the salts are less than 1 g/l soluble, wherein the calcium salts comprise primary particles having diameters of from 5 to 50 nanometers and lengths of from 10 to 150 nanometers, stabilized against agglomeration by a content of at least 0.01% by weight, based on the weight of the suspension, of a water-soluble surfactant or of a water-soluble polymeric protective colloid adsorbed onto said particles.

9. (currently amended): A ~~The suspension of claim 8,~~ comprising 1% to 40% by weight of ~~the~~ one or more phosphate calcium salts, fluoride

calcium salts, or fluorophosphate calcium salts and in a liquid medium in which the salts are less than 1 g/l soluble, wherein the calcium salts comprise primary particles having diameters of from 5 to 50 nanometers and lengths of from 10 to 150 nanometers, said particles stabilized against agglomeration by a content of 0.1% to 10% by weight, based on the weight of the one or more calcium salts, of the a water-soluble surfactant or the a water-soluble polymeric protective colloid adsorbed onto said particles.

10. (currently amended): The suspension of claim 9 &, wherein the water soluble surfactant comprises one or more non-ionic surfactants, the suspension comprising 1% to 10% by weight, based on the weight of the one or more calcium salts, of the one or more nonionic surfactants.

11. (currently amended): A process for the preparation of a suspension of poorly soluble calcium salts, comprising the steps of precipitating one or more phosphate calcium salts, fluoride calcium salts, or fluorophosphate calcium salts in an aqueous medium in which these salts are less than 1 g/l soluble, wherein the calcium salts comprise primary particles having diameters of from 5 to 50 nanometers and lengths of from 10 to 150 nanometers, said precipitation being carried out in the

presence of water-soluble surfactants or water-soluble polymeric protective colloids such that a content of at least 0.01% by weight, based on the weight of the suspension, of the water-soluble surfactant or water-soluble polymeric protective colloid is adsorbed onto said particles.

12. (previously presented): The process of claim 11, wherein the aqueous medium is an acidic solution of a water-soluble calcium salt and a stoichiometric amount of a water-soluble phosphate salt with a pH below 3, and the precipitations effected by increasing the pH using aqueous alkalis or ammonia in the presence of the water-soluble surfactants or water-soluble polymeric protective colloids.

13. (previously presented): A toothpaste comprising one or more silica polishing agents, humectants, binders or aromas and 0.1-5% by weight of one or more calcium salts selected from the group consisting of amorphous calcium phosphate, hydroxylapatite, fluorapatite, and calcium fluoride, said calcium salts being present in the form of a suspension of one or more of the salts in a liquid medium in which the salts are less than 1 g/l soluble, wherein the salts comprise primary particles having diameters of from 5 to 50 nanometers and lengths of from 10 to 150 nanometers, stabilized against agglomeration by a content of at least 0.01% by weight, based on the weight of the suspension, of a water-

soluble surfactant or of a water-soluble polymeric protective colloid
adsorbed onto said particles.

14. (currently amended): A method of remineralizing teeth comprising the steps of applying to a tooth a remineralizing-effective amount of a suspension of one or more phosphate calcium salts, fluoride calcium salts, or fluorophosphate calcium salts in a liquid medium in which these salts are less than 1 g/l soluble, wherein the calcium salts comprise primary particles having diameters of from 5 to 50 nanometers and lengths of from 10 to 150 nanometers, stabilized against agglomeration by a content of at least 0.01% by weight, based on the weight of the suspension, of a water-soluble surfactant or of a water-soluble polymeric protective colloid adsorbed onto said particles.

The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance: The instant application is directed to a suspension and a process for preparing a suspension of poorly soluble calcium salts comprising primary particles having diameters of from 5 to 50 nanometers and lengths of from 10 to 150 nanometers. The relevant references do not teach a suspension of nano-particulate calcium salts with such anisotropic dimensions. Additionally, the references do not teach a suspension of calcium salts stabilized against agglomeration.

Art Unit: 1614

Applicant has demonstrated that the instant suspension⁵ do not agglomerate (see the working Examples) thus solving that technical problem in an unexpected manner.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Examiner Graffeo whose telephone number is 571-272-8505. The examiner can normally be reached on 9am to 5:30pm Monday to Friday.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Christopher Low can be reached on 571-272-0951. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

18 April 2005
MG

Frederick Krass
Primary Examiner
Art Unit 1614
